

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

CPG #NM-699

Application of Ben Cohen for a certificate of)
public good for an interconnected group net)
metered photovoltaic electric power system)

Order entered: 9/9/2009

I. INTRODUCTION

This case involves an application filed by Ben Cohen ("Applicant") on August 18, 2009, requesting a certificate of public good ("CPG") pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 219a and 248 and Vermont Public Service Board ("Board") Rule 5.100 for a net metering system.¹ The net metering system is a group system that utilizes a photovoltaic system and includes three electric meters on non-contiguous properties in Williston, Vermont.

Notice of the application in this docket was sent to all parties as specified in the Board's Rule 5.100. The notice stated that any party wishing to submit comments or request a hearing in this matter needed to file comments with the Board within thirty (30) days of the date that the notice of the application was sent.

No comments have been received.

The Board has reviewed the application and accompanying documents and agrees that, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 219a and 248 and the Board's Rule 5.100, a CPG should be issued without further investigation or hearing.

II. FINDINGS

Based upon the application and its accompanying documents, the Board makes the following findings in this matter.

1. The proposed photovoltaic generation facility is located on property owned by the Applicant at 390 Willow Brook Lane in Williston, Vermont. Application at Section 1.

2. The proposed net metering facility will consist of 2 pole-mounted solar trackers. Application at Section 4.

1. The application was initially filed on June 29, 2009, but was not completed until August 18, 2009.

3. The proposed photovoltaic system has a total system-rated power output of 7.79 kW AC. The facility will be interconnected with the Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc. electrical distribution system. Application at Section 4 and attachments.

4. Applicant has specified the meters to be included in the group system by account number and location. Applicant has also provided a method for adding or removing meters included in the group system. Application at Section 7 and attachments.

5. The proposed generation facility will be located at 390 Willow Brook Road in Williston. The other group member meters will be located at: (1) 394 Willow Brook Road in Williston; and (2) 2779 South Road in Williston. Application at Section 7 attachment.

6. Applicant has designated Ben Cohen as the person responsible for receiving all communications regarding the group system. Application at Section 7 attachment.

7. All disputes among users of the group system shall be resolved by the group members: Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield. Application at Section 7 and attachment.

8. Applicant has certified that the project is in compliance with all of the provisions of Sections 3 and 8 of the application. Based on these submissions, we conclude that the project does not raise a significant issue with respect to the environmental criteria of 30 V.S.A. § 248. Application at Sections 3 and 8 and attachment.

9. Applicant has certified compliance with the insurance requirements as set forth in Section 3 of the application. Application at Section 3.

III. CONCLUSION

In Docket No. 6181,² the Board developed a net metering program in accordance with the statutory requirements of 30 V.S.A. § 219a. This program was further refined by the Board with the adoption of Board Rule 5.100. The goals of the Order and Rule are to encourage private investment in renewable energy resources, stimulate the economic growth of the state and enhance the continued diversification of energy sources used in Vermont. The standards and requirements adopted in the Order and Rule have been determined by the Board to protect public safety and system reliability.

2. *Investigation into the Use of A Net Metering System for the Purchase and Sale of Electricity from Small Electrical Generating Systems to and from Electric Companies*, Docket No. 6181, April 21, 1999.

With respect to additional utility costs associated with group systems, we note that Board Rule 5.106(A)(4) allows the utility to “charge reasonable fees for interconnection, establishment, special meter reading, accounting, account correcting and account maintenance’ related to group systems. Therefore, any additional costs to the utility generated by the project will be borne by the Applicant and not by other ratepayers.

Based upon the findings and evidence, the proposed group net metering project will be in compliance with the requirements of the Board's Order in Docket No. 6181 and Rule 5.100, the application does not raise a significant issue with respect to the substantive criteria of 30 V.S.A. § 248, and the proposed project will promote the general good of the state.

IV. ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED by the Public Service Board of the State of Vermont that the group net metering system, in accordance with the evidence and plans submitted in this proceeding, will promote the general good of the State of Vermont pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 219a, and a certificate of public good to that effect shall be issued in this matter, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 219a and 248.

DATED at Montpelier, Vermont, this 9th day of September, 2009.

<u>s/James Volz</u>)	
)	PUBLIC SERVICE
)	
<u>s/David C. Coen</u>)	BOARD
)	
)	OF VERMONT
)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: September 9, 2009

Attest: s/Susan M. Hudson
Clerk of the Board

NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: psb.clerk@state.vt.us)

Appeal of this decision to the Supreme Court of Vermont must be filed with the Clerk of the Board within thirty days. Appeal will not stay the effect of this Order, absent further Order by this Board or appropriate action by the Supreme Court of Vermont. Motions for reconsideration or stay, if any, must be filed with the Clerk of the Board within ten days of the date of this decision and order.